<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:</u>

Please amend the claims as follows. The claims are in the format as required by 35 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium, wherein said computer program comprises instructions executable by a processor to:

maintain a first component <u>having associated properties for</u> representing <u>in a data model</u> a first entity in a system <u>being modeled, wherein the first component is arbitrarily defined based on the data model format and the system</u>;

maintain a second component <u>having associated properties for</u> representing a second entity in the system;

maintain [[a]] relationship discovery rule<u>s for analyzing relationships between components in the data model;</u>

<u>associate a relationship discovery rule with the first component</u>;

apply the relationship discovery rule to ~~determine if~~ the second component ~~should be in a relationship with the first component~~; and

establish<u>, delete, or update a</u> [[the]] relationship ~~if it is determined that second component should be in a relationship with~~ <u>between</u> the first component <u>and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system</u>.

2. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship represents a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.

3. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.

4. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a ~~criteria~~ <u>criterion</u> from the set of criteria specifies that at least one property of the second component must have a particular value.

5. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a ~~criteria~~ criterion from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be of a particular component type for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.

6. (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 3, wherein a ~~criteria~~ criterion from the set of criteria specifies that the second component must be in an already established relationship for the second component to be in the relationship with the first component.

7. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the first component and the second component are maintained according to a generic data model.

8. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises an executable script.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 8, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to associate the script with a first component type of which the first component is a member.

10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program comprises instructions executable to determine whether the second component should be in a relationship with the first component based on one or more criteria specified in the script.

11. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions executable to store the relationship in a first database table.

12. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

13. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7, wherein the first component and the second component represent entities in an information technology ("IT") environment.

14. (Currently amended) A method for discovering relationships comprising:

maintaining a first component having associated properties for representing in a data model a first entity in a system being modeled, wherein the first component is arbitrarily defined based on the data model format and the system;

maintaining a second component having associated properties for representing a second entity in the system;

maintaining [[a]] relationship discovery rules for analyzing relationships between components in the data model;

associating a relationship discovery rule with the first component;

applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component; and

establishing, deleting, or updating a [[the]] relationship if it is determined that second component should be in a relationship with between the first component and the second component according to the relationship discovery rule, wherein the relationship represents an association between the first entity and the second entity in the system.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the relationship represents a dependency between the first entity and the second entity.

16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 14, wherein the relationship discovery rule further comprises a set of criteria.

17. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if a property of the second component has a value meeting at least one criterion criteria from the set of criteria.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if the second component is of a particular component type.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 16, wherein applying the relationship discovery rule to determine if the second component should be in a relationship with the first component further comprises determining if the second component is in an already established relationship.

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising storing the relationship in a first database table.

~~22~~ 21. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the first component and second component are stored in a second database table separate from the first database table.

~~23~~ 22. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 20, further comprising storing the relationship in a database table according to a generic data model.

~~24~~ 23. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim [[23]] 22, wherein the generic data model models an information technology ("IT") environment.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein maintaining a relationship discovery rule further comprises maintaining an executable script.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24, further comprising associating the executable script with the first component.